

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A machine for use in transactions, the machine being operable to accept payment by diminishing the value of credit data stored on a card, the machine being operable to maintain a record of the accumulated value of the payments made, and having a memory storing identification data, the machine being operable to use the stored data to recognise a card as a card authorised for the purposes of downloading, and in response thereto to transfer the accumulated value to the card;

wherein the machine is further operable to use the identification information to recognise that a card is authorised for the purpose of inhibiting downloading, and in response thereto to prevent transfer of accumulated values to cards authorised for downloading.

2. (Original) A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the machine is operable to check data identifying a card against stored identifying data representing a plurality of cards and, if a match is found, to permit downloading if a flag associated with the matching identifying data indicates that the card is authorised for downloading, and wherein the machine is operable, in response to recognising a card as being authorised for inhibiting downloading, to alter the flags associated with the data identifying cards authorised for downloading.

3. (Original) A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the machine is operable, in response to recognising a card as being authorised for inhibiting downloading, to reset the memory locations containing data identifying cards authorised for downloading.

4. (Previously presented) A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the machine is operable, in response to identifying a card as being authorised for inhibiting downloading, to set

a flag so that future transfer of accumulated values to a card authorised for downloading is inhibited irrespective of whether or not the memory stores data identifying that card as authorised for downloading.

5. (Previously presented) A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the machine is further operable to use the identification data to recognise a card as authorised for use as a test card, and in response thereto to allow an operation normally performed by the machine in exchange for payment to be carried out without requiring a resultant loss in the credit stored on the test card.

6. (Original) A machine for use in performing transactions, the machine being operable to accept payment by reducing the value of credit data stored on a card, the machine storing identification data and being operable to use the identification data to recognise a received card as being authorised for test purposes, and in response thereto to permit an operation normally requiring payment to be carried out by the machine without a resultant reduction in the credit data stored by the test card.

7. (Previously presented) A machine as claimed in claim 5, wherein the machine is operable in response to recognising that a card is authorised for test purposes to reduce the credit value stored on the card as payment, and then to restore the credit value.

8. (Previously presented) A machine as claimed in claim 5, wherein the machine is arranged to enable said operation without requiring a resultant loss in the credit on the card only if the machine is first switched into a test mode.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method of operating a vending machine which is operable to accept payment by diminishing the value of credit data stored on a card, and which is further operable to recognise a card as being authorised for the purposes of downloading and in response thereto to transfer to the card a record of the accumulated value of payments made, the method comprising causing the machine to read a card storing data identifying the card as being authorised for the purpose of inhibiting downloading, the machine thereafter being inoperable for performing the downloading operation.

11. (Original) A method of operating a vending machine which is operable to accept payment by reducing the value of credit data stored on a card, the method comprising the step of testing the machine by causing the machine to read a card storing data identifying the card as being authorised for test purposes, the machine responding thereto by permitting an operation normally requiring payment to be carried out by the machine without a resultant reduction in the credit data stored by the test card.